

1 CLAIMS:

1 1. A method of verifying a bookmark, comprising the steps:

1 (a) storing a first network information address having information
2 associated therewith in at least a first data structure as a bookmark; and

3 (b) determining whether the first network information address is retrievable
4 by automatically searching for the information located at the first network information
5 address, wherein the first network information address is retrievable if the first network
6 information address is located, and wherein if the first network information address is
7 retrievable, determining whether the information has been moved to a second network
8 information address different from the first network information address.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first network information address is a
2 Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information located at the first network
2 information address is a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) document.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein (b) is performed at a user-defined frequency.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein if the information has been moved to the
2 second network information address, replacing the first network information address in
3 the first data structure with the second network information address.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the information has been
2 moved to the second network information address comprises scanning source code of
3 the information for embedded hypertext links and detecting only a single hypertext link.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising determining whether the information
2 has changed comprising comparing a stored first date to a second date returned by a
3 server, wherein the first date is stored during step (a).

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein if the information has not been moved to the

2 second network information address, determining whether the information located at
3 the first network information address has changed.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein determining whether the information has
2 changed comprises comparing a stored first date to a second date returned by a server,
3 wherein the first date is stored during step (a).

1 10. The method of claim 1, the first data structure has at least a first data field
2 related to the first network information address.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising, prior to (b), scanning the
2 information for one or more embedded network information addresses, wherein if any
3 embedded network information addresses are found, storing each embedded network
4 information address in a second data structure containing one or more second data
5 fields which relate to the embedded network information addresses.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first data structure and the second data
2 structure are the same.

1 13. The method of claim 11, further comprising,
2 (c) generating a verification table containing the first data field and the one
3 or more second data fields.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to (b), scanning the
2 information for one or more embedded network information addresses, wherein if any
3 embedded network information addresses are found, storing each embedded network
4 information address in the first data structure.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein (b) comprises attempting to download the
2 information located at first network information address, wherein a successful attempt
3 indicates that the first network information address is retrievable and an unsuccessful
4 attempt indicates that the first network information address is irretrievable.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein if the information has been moved to the
 2 second network information address, replacing the first network information address in
 3 the first data structure with the second network information address; and if the
 4 information has not been moved to the second network information address, replacing
 5 the first network information address in the first data structure with a temporary
 6 document containing the one or more embedded network information addresses.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein if (b) indicates that the first network
 2 information address is retrievable, determining whether the information has changed.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein determining whether the information has
 2 changed comprises comparing a first date stored in the first data structure to a second
 3 date returned by a server.

1 19. A method, comprising:

- 2 (a) storing a bookmark network information address having information
- 3 associated therewith in a data structure;
- 4 (b) scanning the information for one or more embedded network
- 5 information addresses, wherein if any embedded network information addresses are
- 6 found, storing the embedded network information addresses in the data structure; and
- 7 (c) periodically determining whether the bookmark network information
- 8 address has changed, wherein if the bookmark network information address has
- 9 changed, determining whether a forwarding network information address is provided,
- 10 and wherein if the bookmark network information address has not changed,
- 11 determining whether the information has changed.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising performing (c) at a user-defined
 2 frequency.

1 21. The method of claim 19, wherein periodically determining whether the
 2 bookmark network information address has changed comprises attempting to download
 3 the information.

1 22. The method of claim 19, wherein the bookmark network information address is
2 a URL and the information is an HTML document.

1 23. The method of claim 19, wherein periodically determining whether the
2 bookmark network information address has changed comprises loading the bookmark
3 network information address from the data structure and attempting to locate the
4 information on a server, wherein a successful attempt indicates that the bookmark
5 network information address has not changed and an unsuccessful attempt indicates that
6 the bookmark network information address has changed.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein if (c) indicates that the bookmark network
2 information address has changed, and if the forwarding network information address is
3 provided, replacing the bookmark network information address in the data structure
4 with the forwarding network information address; and if the forwarding network
5 information address is not provided, replacing the bookmark network information
6 address in the data structure with a path name associated with a temporary document
7 containing the one or more embedded network information addresses.

1 25. The method of claim 23, wherein if (c) indicates that the bookmark network
2 information address has not changed, determining whether the information has
3 changed.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein determining whether the information has
2 changed comprises comparing a first date stored in the data structure to a second date
3 returned by a server.

1 27. A signal bearing medium for storing a program that when executed by a
2 computer performs a method comprising, steps of:
3 (a) downloading a bookmark network information address having
4 information associated therewith;
5 (b) storing the bookmark network information address in a data structure;
6 (c) scanning the information for one or more embedded network
7 information addresses, wherein if any embedded network information addresses are

8 found, storing the embedded network information addresses in the data structure; and

9 (d) periodically determining whether the information is retrievable at the
10 bookmark network information address, wherein:

- 11 (i) if the information is not retrievable at the bookmark network
12 information address, determining whether a forwarding network
13 information address is provided, wherein if the forwarding network
14 information address is provided, replacing the bookmark network
15 information address in the data structure with the forwarding network
16 information address, and wherein if a forwarding network information
17 address is not provided, generating a backup document containing the
18 embedded network information addresses stored in the data structure;
19 and wherein
20 (ii) if the information is retrievable at the bookmark network
21 information address, determining whether the information has changed,
22 wherein if the information has changed, repeating (c).

1 28. The program of claim 27, wherein determining the bookmark network
2 information address is a URL.

1 29. The program of claim 27, wherein determining the information is an HTML
2 document.

1 30. The program of claim 27, wherein determining the information has changed
2 comprises comparing a first date stored in the data structure to a second date returned
3 by a server.

1 31. The program of claim 27, wherein the bookmark network information address
2 identifies a server computer connected to a client computer, and wherein the program is
3 located on the client computer.

1 32. The program of claim 31, wherein the client computer and the server computer
2 are the same computer system.

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1 34. The program of claim 31, wherein the data structure is stored on the client
2 computer.

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